

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /035 W
-----069265 180143Z /63
R 171659Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7346

UNCLAS LONDON 13735

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: IMCO: FORTHCOMING VACANCY FOR INTER-REGIONAL
ADVISED IN MARITIME LEGISLATION AT P-5 LEVEL

1. PRESENT INCUMBENT OF SUBJECT POSITION, US CITIZEN
FREDERICK PRESLEY, HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO IMCO
SECGEN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1978, THE TERMINATION DATE OF
HIS PRESENT CONTRACT. POSITION IS FUNDED BY UNDP ON
YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS, BUT IMCO EXPECTATION IS THAT UNDP
WILL CONTINUE TO FUND IT. VACANCY NOTICE FOR POSITION
WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL LATER IN YEAR.

2. EMBASSY DISCUSSED WITH PRESLEY QUALIFICATIONS DESIR-
ABLE IN CANDIDATE AND NATURE OF POSITION. IN HIS VIEW,
CANDIDATE MUST HAVE A MARITIME LAW BACKGROUND BUT SHOULD

.
ALSO ENJOY MEETING WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIGH
OFFICIALS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND DISCUSSING MARI-
TIME ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY IN BROAD GENERAL TERMS.
THE WORK INVOLVES TRAVEL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR AS
MUCH AS 8 MONTHS OF THE YEAR. ADVISER, IN ADDITION TO
PROVIDING LEGAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, PLAYS A DIPLOMATIC ROLE FOR IMCO IN EXPLAIN-
ING IMCO'S ROLE IN THE MARITIME WORLD AND EXTENDING ITS
IMAGE. PRESLEY HAS FREQUENTLY FOUND HIMSELF ASKED TO
EXPRESS HIS OPINION ON MARITIME POLICY AND BROAD MARI-
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TIME ADMINISTRATION MATTERS OUTSIDE HIS TECHNICAL AREA.

3. PRESLEY BELIEVES THAT THE PROJECT FOR WHICH HIS
POSITION EXISTS SHOULD BE MODIFIED. HE WILL ATTEMPT TO
DRAW UP SOME RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DEPARTING IMCO. HE
HAD ORIGINALLY SEEN HIS JOB AS ONE OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN THE DRAFTING OF MARITIME LEGISLATION, BUT

HE NOW BELIEVES THAT LEGAL DRAFTING SERVICES COULD BETTER BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED BY IMCO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION FROM HEADQUARTERS. THE NEED IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SEEMS TO BE FOR TRAINING OF MARITIME LAW ADMINISTRATORS, AND THE WORK OF PRESLEY'S SUCCESSOR MIGHT PRINCIPALLY BE TO ARTICULATE LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. IN THIS LATTER REGARD, PRESLEY SEES IMCO GETTING CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE BEYOND UNDP'S CAPABILITIES. HE BELIEVES THAT SEEKING MORE AND MORE BILATERAL DONORS WILL BE THE ONLY ROUTE IMCO CAN TAKE. HE IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT DONOR AS WELL AS HOST COUNTRY INFLUENCE, CONSTRAINTS OR CONTROL OVER SELECTION AND ACTIVITIES OF EXPERTS WORKING ON PROJECTS. HE BELIEVES US TAKING SHORT-SIGHTED VIEW: IF IMCO CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO USE BUDGETED FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, IT WILL BE FORCED INCREASINGLY TO SEEK BILATERAL DONORS; ALTERNATIVELY IF US POLICY WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BE A BILATERAL DONOR ON IMCO PROJECTS, IT WILL NOT BE IN THE SAME POSITION TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' MARITIME POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION.

STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770853/aaaabswww.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1578687
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMCO: FORTHCOMING VACANCY FOR INTER-REGIONAL ADVISER IN MARITIME LEGISLATION AT P-5 LEVEL
TAGS: AORG, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d286b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009